(a) whether it has been more often the practice to sanction more than the amount first estimated for important works;

(b) the reasons for so doing in the majority of instances;

(c) the officer who is charged with the duty of preparing estimates;

(d) whether all estimates are scrutinised by the Chief Engineer before sanctioning them;

(e) if the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, the reasons for sanctioning more amount than the first estimates?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) It is not generally so.

(b) Additional provisions for foundations of structures may have to be made when, unforeseen defects in the subsoil appear during actual construction. Particularly in the case of buildings, deviations by way of providing additional accommodation, etc., have to be attended to as requisitioned by the department for which the building is constructed.

(c) In the Medical Department the Sanitary Inspectors, in the Agriculture and Panchayat Department the Minor Irrigation Overseers in consultation with the Panchayats and in the D. P. W. by the technical hands of the Drawing Branch of the Chief Engineer's Office.

(d) The estimates in respect of the D. P. W. alone are scrutinised by the Chief Engineer.

(e) Though scrutinised by the Chief Engineer, deviations due to causes explained in para (b) above cannot be avoided.

A Special Engineer in charge of the Mechanical Department.

261. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the exceptional circumstances that demanded the appointment of a Special Engineer in charge of the Mechanical Department, etc., and the abolition of the same when the present Chief Engineer was promoted to his present appointment;

(b) whether those circumstances do not exist at present;

(c) whether they propose confirming the Mechanical Assistant in that post;

(d) the details of work in the Mechanical Department done by the present Chief Engineer during the past year?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) The increase of machinery, motor cars and boats, gas and electric plants necessitated the appointment of a qualified Engineer to be in charge of them. When the Civil and Mechanical branches of the P. W. Department were amalgamated, opportunity was availed to place the

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same under the Chief Engineer, a Mechanical Assistant Engineer on the cadre of the Civil Assistant Engineer being given to assist him.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Government have not yet decided.

(d) The Chief Engineer is in charge of the department.

The well-boring experiment at Nemmara.

262. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the details of the well-boring experiment conducted at Nemmara with the approximate expenditure incurred up-to-date;

(b) the quantity of water obtained and the quantity still required for the daily consumption of the people;

(c) whether any expert opinion was obtained in regard to this before embarking on the project;

(d) whether such experiments could not be tried to provide the Mattancheri public with pipe water, especially, while some of the prominent inhabitants of the place are reported to be prepared to bear a portion of the initial expenditure?

Mr. V. K Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) The well-boring operations at Nemmara consisted in boring through stratum of hard gneiss to a depth of about 75 ft. from the ruling ground surface of the locality.

During summer the static level of the water in the bore-hole was about 14 ft. from the surface from which the well was started.

During the last summer, a quantity ranging between 4 and 5 thousand gallons were pumped out of this well every day for 5 months. After the season, there was no appreciable drop in the static level in the well.

A sample of the raw water as it came from the well was got analysed along with the samples taken from two neighbouring shallow wells. The results of the analysis are appended. (*Vide Appendix V.*) These show that the bore-hole water is superior to the water from shallow well, and is fairly satisfactory for domestic consumption. It is however necessary to have the water coagulated with alum and filtered to secure a protected supply as per the opinion of the Government Analysist at Guindy. Any further particulars regarding it the Government will be pleased to supply.

The expenditure on plant was Rs. 16,414-8-0.

Cost of boring and other incidental charges—Rs.2,131-2 11.

Cost of pumping up to the end of Edavam 1101—Rs. 1,212-5-1.

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